SHADOW STRIKES
23
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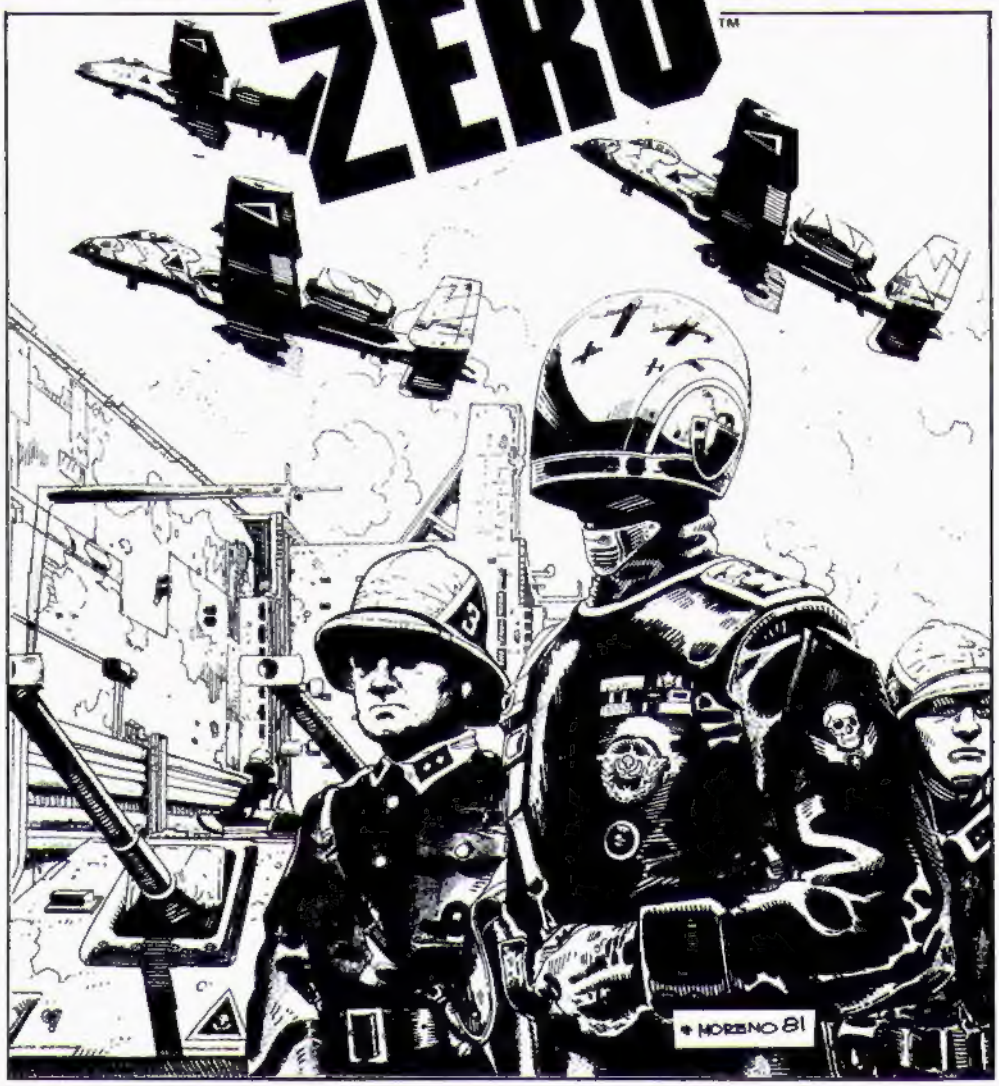
THE Shadow STRIKES!™
THE WRATH OF SHIWAN KHAN!
by JONES · WHIGHAM · FERNANDEZ

# WHAT'S LEFT AFTER WORLD WAR III?

# GENERATION ZERO™




**A 128-PAGE MAGAZINE-SIZED PAPERBACK GRAPHIC NOVEL.**
**WRITTEN BY ARCHIE GOODWIN AND ILLUSTRATED BY PEPE MORENO**

**SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS**

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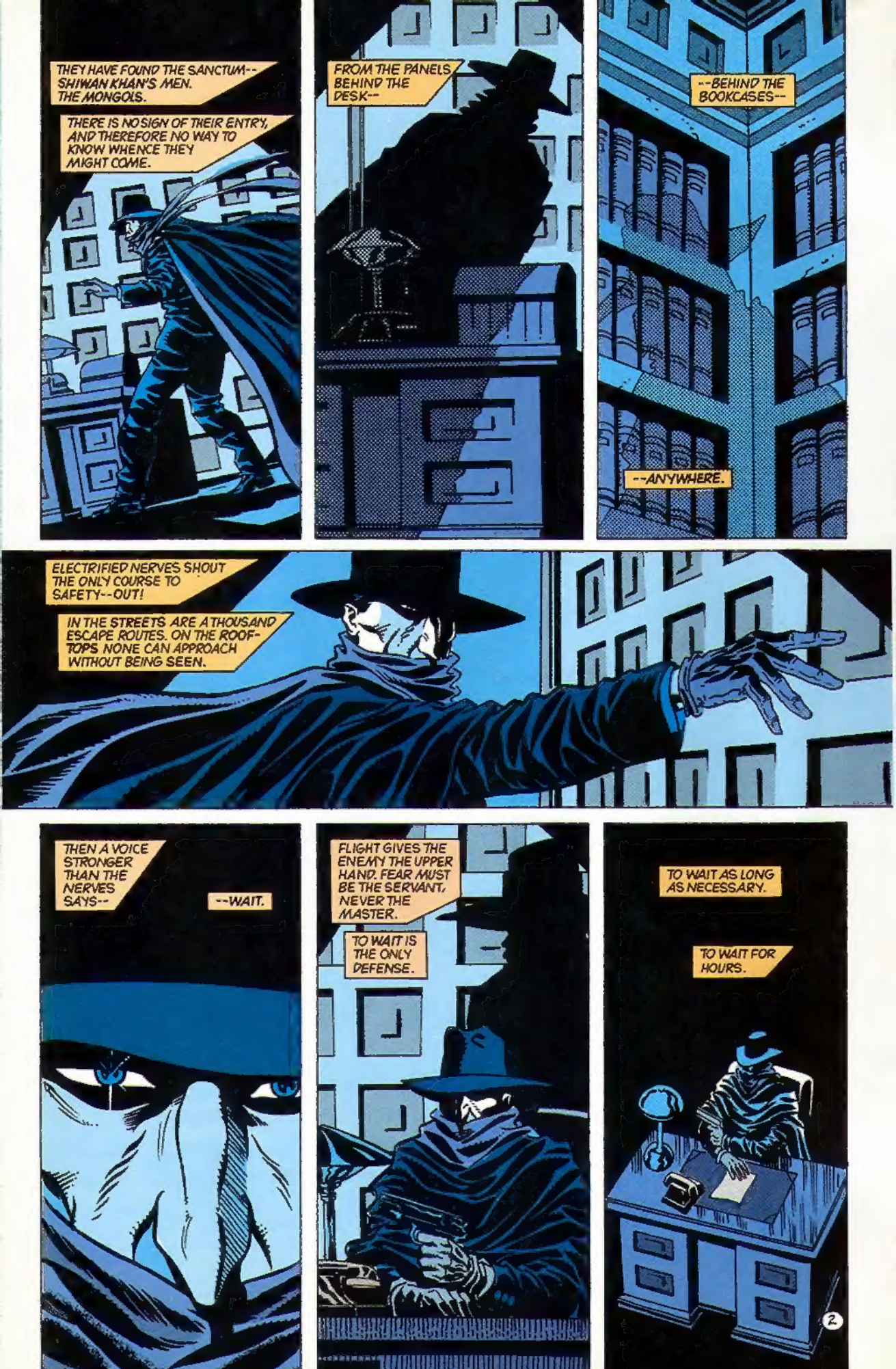
THEY HAVE FOUND THE SANCTUM--SHIWAN KHAN'S MEN. THE MONGOLS.
THERE IS NO SIGN OF THEIR ENTRY, AND THEREFORE NO WAY TO KNOW WHENCE THEY MIGHT COME.
FROM THE PANELS BEHIND THE DESK--
--BEHIND THE BOOKCASES--
--ANYWHERE.
ELECTRIFIED NERVES SHOUT THE ONLY COURSE TO SAFETY--OUT!
IN THE STREETS ARE A THOUSAND ESCAPE ROUTES. ON THE ROOF-TOPS NONE CAN APPROACH WITHOUT BEING SEEN.
THEN A VOICE STRONGER THAN THE NERVES SAYS--
--WAIT.
FLIGHT GIVES THE ENEMY THE UPPER HAND. FEAR MUST BE THE SERVANT, NEVER THE MASTER.
TO WAIT IS THE ONLY DEFENSE.
TO WAIT AS LONG AS NECESSARY.
TO WAIT FOR HOURS.
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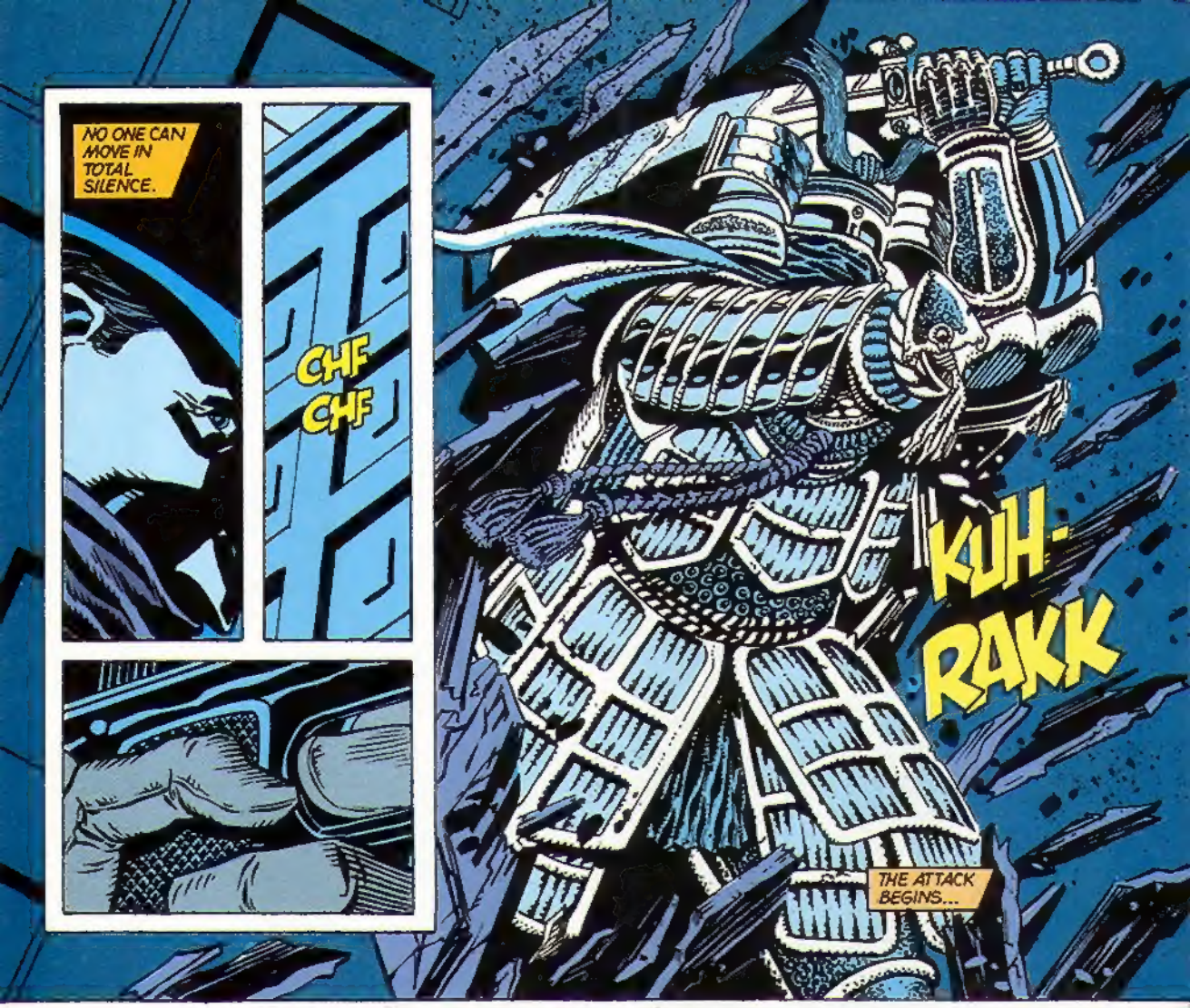
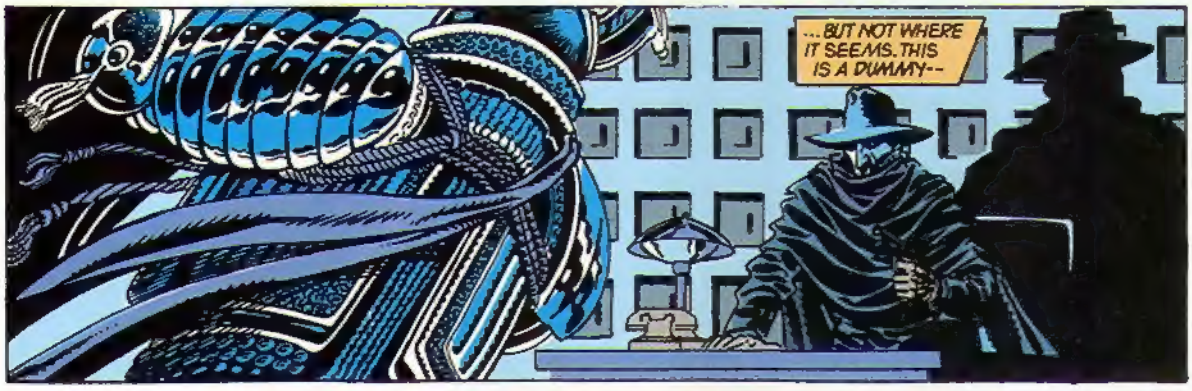
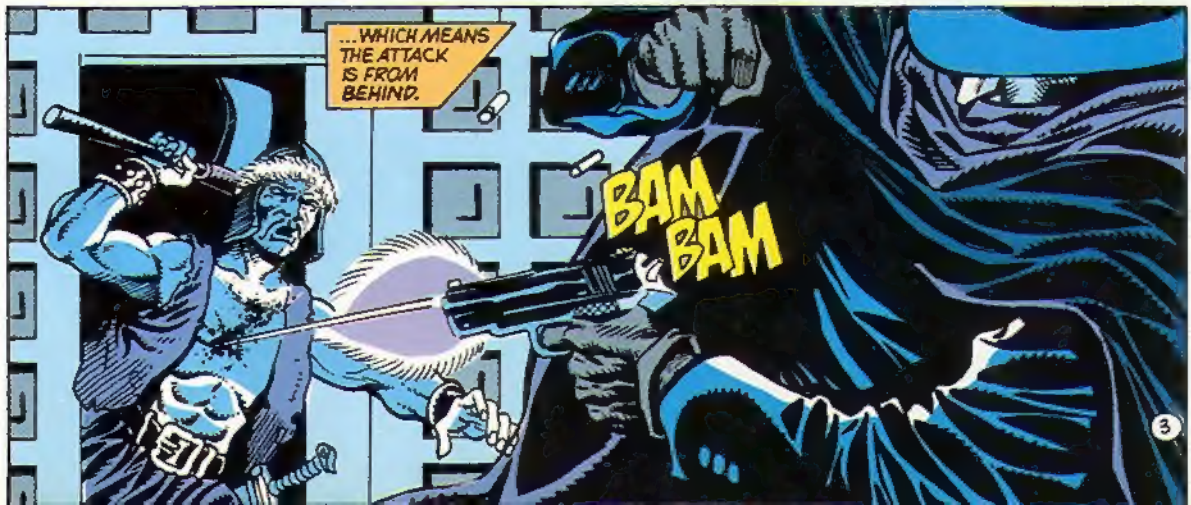

NO ONE CAN MOVE IN TOTAL SILENCE.
CHF CHF
KUH-RAKK
THE ATTACK BEGINS...


...BUT NOT WHERE IT SEEMS. THIS IS A DUMMY--


...WHICH MEANS THE ATTACK IS FROM BEHIND.
BAM BAM
3

CHUK
BULGAN-GAI! HA-HA-HA!
BOOM
BOOM
BOO-
BOOM

URGALA! CHUUM! UR-GA--
SKARACH
--LAAAAAA!
U BAL ULAN CHA?
BAM CHUD BAM
HUHH! HUHH!
BOOM BOOM BOOM
5

UNGH!
SUMBAN! SHA SAIBUL SHA!
HA HA HA HA
CHA KHAN-SHAI!
CHA KHAN-SHAI SAIBUL!
SST...
SHAND-A CHALAI!
KHAN!
OOOO!
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT...
...HOW DO YOU STEAM THE PASTRY-SHELL AND LEAVE THE BEAN SPROUTS SO CRISP?
MISS LANE, MISS LANE...YOU ARE AN ODD ONE.

MY OPERATIONS PERIODICALLY REQUIRE ME TO TAKE OCCIDENTAL WOMEN HOSTAGE.
BUT MOST OF THEM MERELY COWER IN TERROR THAT I'LL ROB THEM OF THEIR VIRTUE.
SHIWAN...THE ONLY VIRTUE I'VE GOT LEFT IS A SOLID RIGHT CROSS.
WHO ARE YOU, MARGO LANE?
YOU INTRIGUE ME. SOMETIMES THE SOCIETY BUTTERFLY...SOMETIMES THE HARD-SHELLED "DAME."
AND YOU INTRIGUE ME, SHIWAN...
...SOMETIMES THE REPULSIVELY SELF-INDULGENT PRISS...SOMETIMES THE VICIOUS MURDERER.
HEH-HEH.
SOMEDAY, MISS LANE, I MAY LET YOU MEET THE TRUE SHIWAN KHAN. THEN YOU MAY BE INTRIGUED INDEED.
<GREAT KHAN! GREAT KHAN!>
<THEY HAVE HIM, GREAT KHAN.>
AND HE IS DEAD THIS TIME? YOU ARE CERTAIN--HE IS DEAD?

EXCUSE ME, MISS LANE. IT SEEMS MY MEN HAVE BROUGHT IN YOUR EMPLOYER.
WHAT?!
I'M AFRAID I WON'T INVITE YOU TO WATCH, THIS TIME.
SUDDENLY I'VE LOST MY DESIRE TO SEE YOU SUFFER.
KAN-SHAI! KAN-SHAI! KAN-SHAI!
HOORAY!
HOW SWEET. HOW VERY SWEET...
...BUT THIS TIME... I MUST BE SURE!
THERE WILL BE NO SERPENT-TRANCE FOR YOU NOW, SHADOW...
...THERE WILL BE NO MORE FALSE DEATHS!
WELL.
NOW THAT WE KNOW OUR FRIEND IS DEAD... LET US SEE IF MY CONJECTURE IS CORRECT. LET US SEE IF I DO RECOGNIZE...
...HIS TRUE FACE!
8

THIS... CANNOT BE.
...THIS IS ONE OF YOU!
IT'S A SWITCH, YOU PRIMITIVES! IT'S HIS ART OF DISGUISE!
HE IS AMONG YOU!
BOOM BOOM

BULGAN-GA!
BOOM BOOM
DARI! DARI!
GULUUM?
WHAT NOW?
NOW-- TEAR OFF HIS MAKE-UP! BE SURE THIS TIME!
NO!
HYPNOTISM!
HE HYPNOTIZED ONE OF YOUR OWN TO SHOOT AT YOU! AND HE'S GONE! ONE OF YOU IS MISSING!
HE IS SOMEWHERE IN THIS GARDEN--OR IN THOSE BUILDINGS!
FIND HIM! KILL HIM!

<SHOULD WE PREPARE FOR A QUICK DEPARTURE, GREAT KHAN?>
<IT IS NEVER BAD TO PREPARE, OLD EUNUCH AND PREPARE AS WELL... TO BRING THE WOMAN.>
<THE...OH OF COURSE, GREAT KHAN MEANS MISTRESS WU HA.>
<NO GREAT KHAN MEANS THE HOSTAGE.. MARGO LANE!>
<WU HA CAN TAKE CARE OF HERSELF!>
HEY DID YOU HEAR GUNSHOTS?
IGNORE THEM, MY HARRY..

CHOOM!
WHOK!
YOU WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO PICK YOUR COMPANIONS MORE CAREFULLY, HARRY VINCENT.
BUT FOR NOW.. FIND A WINDOW AND FIRE THIS FROM AS HIGH AS YOU ARE ABLE.
THEN SEARCH THIS AREA FOR YOUR FELLOW AGENTS.
FIRE...THIS?

FELLOW AGENTS?! IS MARGO HERE, BOSS?
BOSS...?
YEAAAAA!
13

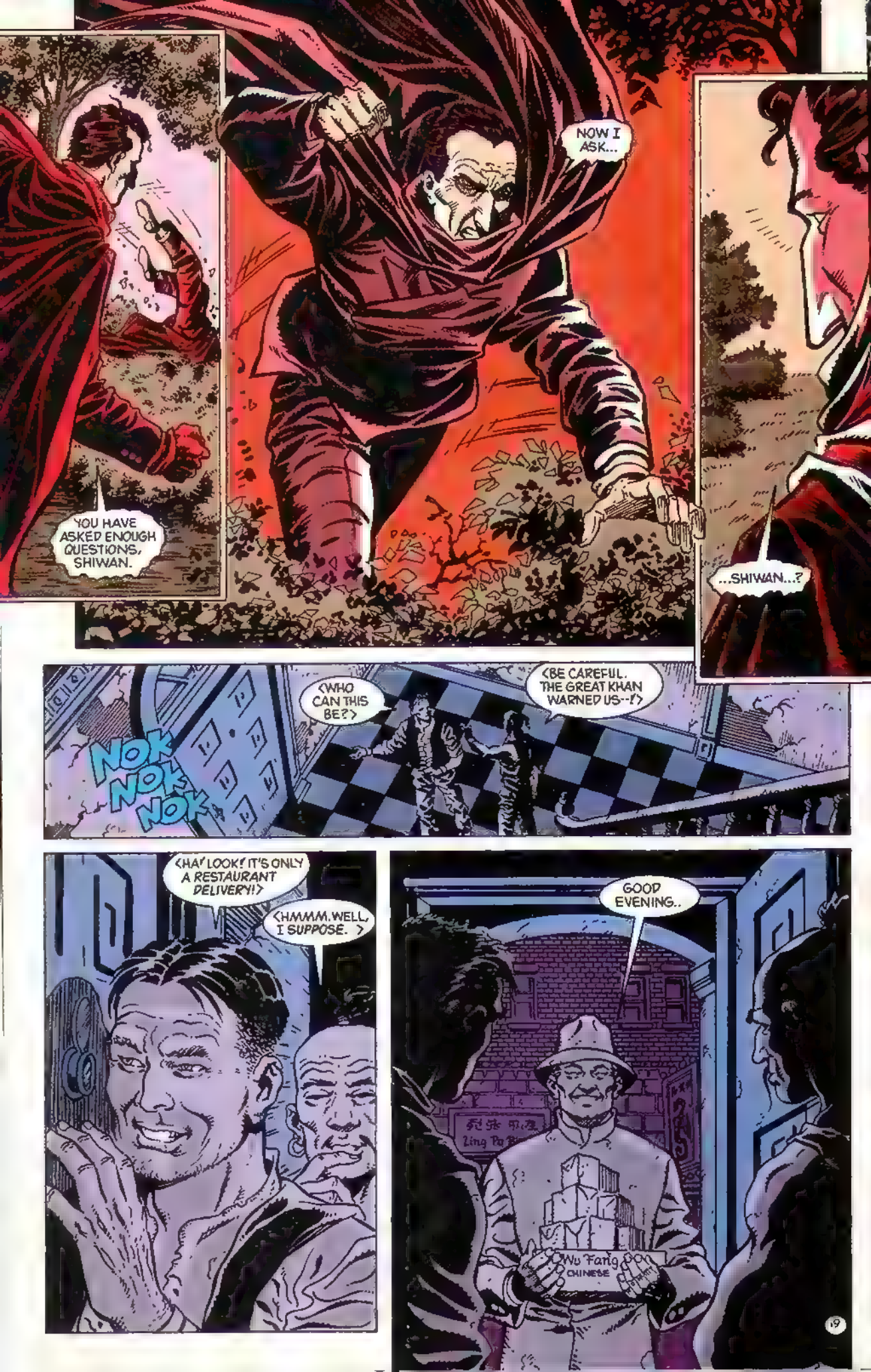
SWSSHH
--AKH!!
HYAAA--
YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME, YOU KNOW.
JUST LIKE IN SAN FRANCISCO--
--AGAIN YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME, AND YOU DID NOT!
BLANG
BLANG
BAM
PERHAPS I WISHED YOU TO LEAD ME TO YOUR ORGANIZATION.

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME! IF YOU HAD KILLED ME THERE WOULD BE NO ORGANIZATION!
CHOK
YOU HAD TO KNOW HOW I KNOW... WHAT I KNOW. THAT'S THE TRUTH, ISN'T IT?
TO KNOW HOW MY MEN LEARNED THE TWISTING VINE OF YEN'SHI...
...JUST AS I HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU LEARNED THE SERPENT TRANCE OF SEN-YUNG!
YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHY I AM AS GOOD AS YOU ARE!
OR, MORE CORRECTLY--
--WHY I AM BETTER!
KLONG
I KNOW YOUR SECRETS, SHADOW.
I KNOW YOUR WEAK SPOTS!

HEY! WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
POOM
AMAZING! WHAT IS IT?
WHERE CAN I BUY IT?
FORGET BUYING IT! IT'S THE SIGNAL OF THE BLACK AVENGER! CALL YAT SOON!
THIS ONE! THIS ONE!
THEN OPEN IT! NOW!
SHREVVY! BURBANK!
BUT NO MARGO...?
6

HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
HARRY, YOU MUST WARN THE MASTER--THEY TOOK OVER MY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER--THEY TRACED THE WIRES--
--THEY MAY FIND HIS SANCTUM!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'VE GOT TO FIND MARGO--
--THE SHADOW WILL BE FINE.
KRAK
HAVEN'T YOU SEEN THE HUMMINGBIRD-FEINT OF THE IMMORTAL HU?
NO, OF COURSE YOU HAVEN'T...BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T COMPLETE YOUR TRAINING!
YOU ARE THE ONE WHOSE NAME CANNOT BE UTTERED--AREN'T YOU?
YOU ARE THE ONE WHO REBELLED AGAINST THE IMMORTALS!
17

YOU ARE THE--
--WHAT?
GYYUUHHHH!
WHERE... DID YOU LEARN... THAT?
WHOCKO
FWUCH!


NOW I ASK...
YOU HAVE ASKED ENOUGH QUESTIONS, SHIWAN.
...SHIWAN...?
NOK NOK NOK
<WHO CAN THIS BE?>
<BE CAREFUL. THE GREAT KHAN WARNED US--!>
<HA! LOOK! IT'S ONLY A RESTAURANT DELIVERY!>
<HMMM. WELL, I SUPPOSE. >
GOOD EVENING..
Ling Po
Wu Fang
CHINESE
19

...YOU ORDERED CHINESE?
Wu Fang
CHINESE
RRGH
GURVAN SAIBUL DA! HEH-HEH-HEH!
UH?
BOP
GLUHHH!

NOW--
HARRY! THE JOINT'S ALL OF A SUDDEN CRAWLIN' WITH CHINESE THUGS! THEY'RE CUTTIN' DOWN SHIWAN'S BOYS!

WE GOTTA FIND MISS LANE--AND QUICK!
BURBANK SAID HE HEARD HER IN HERE!
WELL?
MY HEARING HAS NEVER DECEIVED ME BEFORE. IT--

MMG--!
AHA!

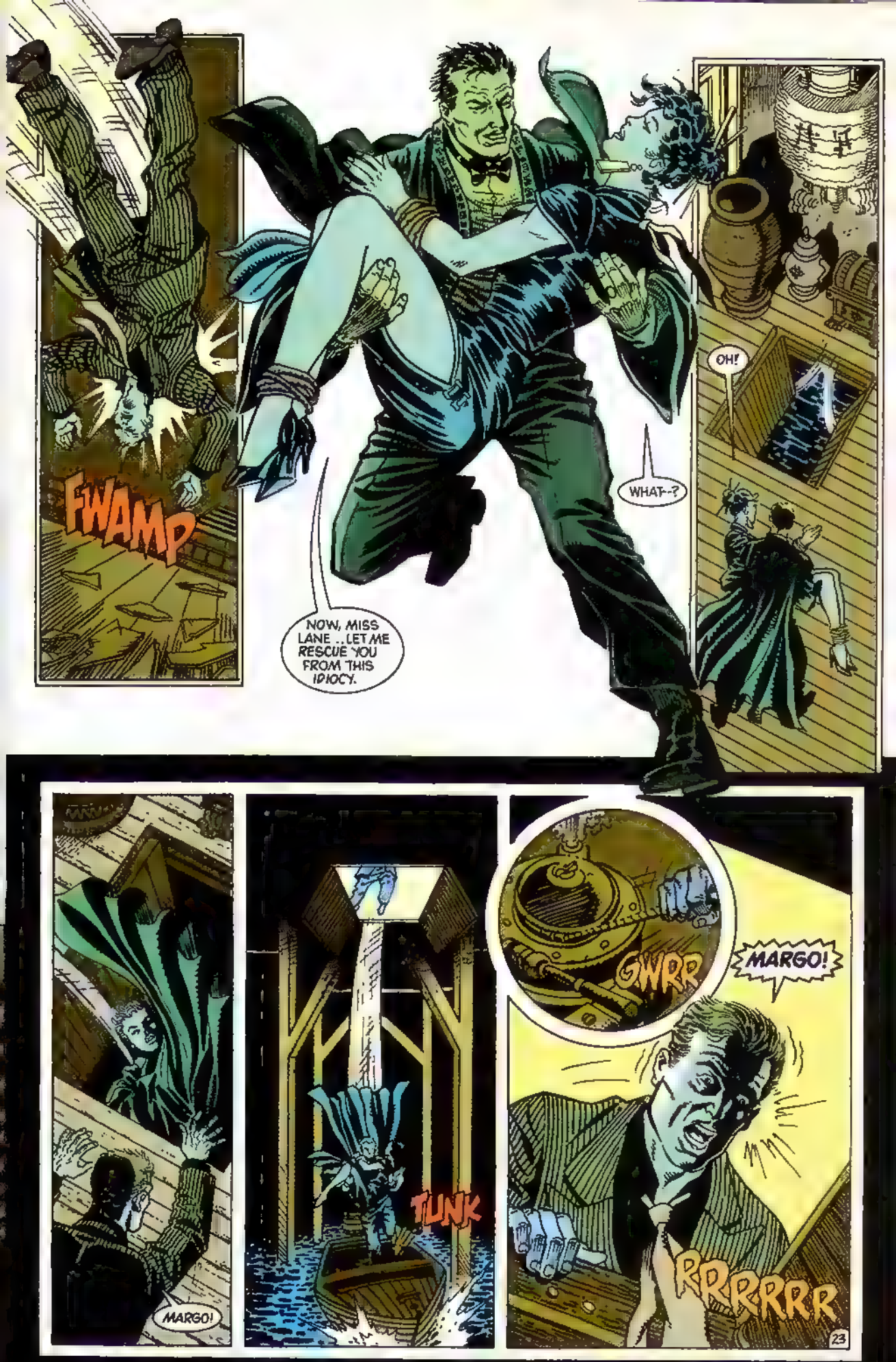
KITSCH!

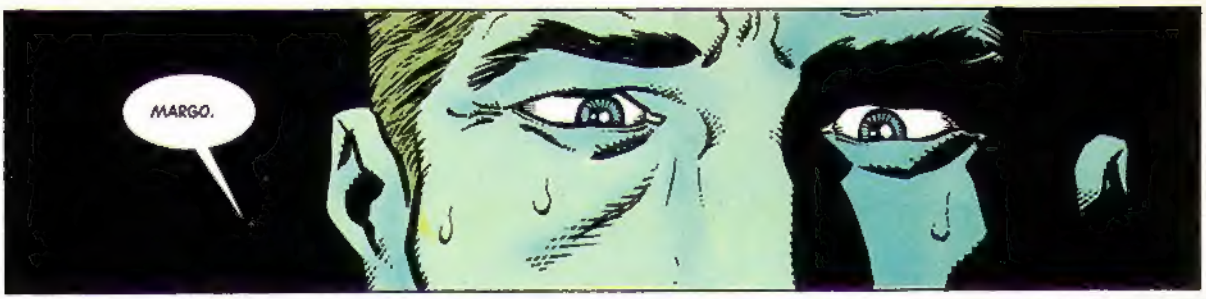
WELL, DOLLFACE... WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME NOW?

HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU A LADY LIKE YOU DOESN'T BELONG IN THIS RACKET?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU GOT INTO IT, KID, BUT MAYBE NOW YOU'LL SEE THAT--
HARRY? MAYBE YOU SHOULD SAVE THE LECTURING...

...AND LOOK BEHIND YOU!

PLEASE DON'T INTERRUPT HIM, MISS LANE. I'M SURE YOU AND I WERE BOTH ENJOYING HIS BOYISH NAIVETÉ.
YOU... SON OF A--
--GET HIM!
GET--
--ME--
--YOURSELF--
GYAAARRH!
HNNKKH
--DEAR HARRY.
22


FWAMP
NOW, MISS LANE ..LET ME RESCUE YOU FROM THIS IDIOCY.
WHAT--?
OH!
MARGO!
TUNK
GWRR
MARGO!
RRRRRRR
23


MARGO.

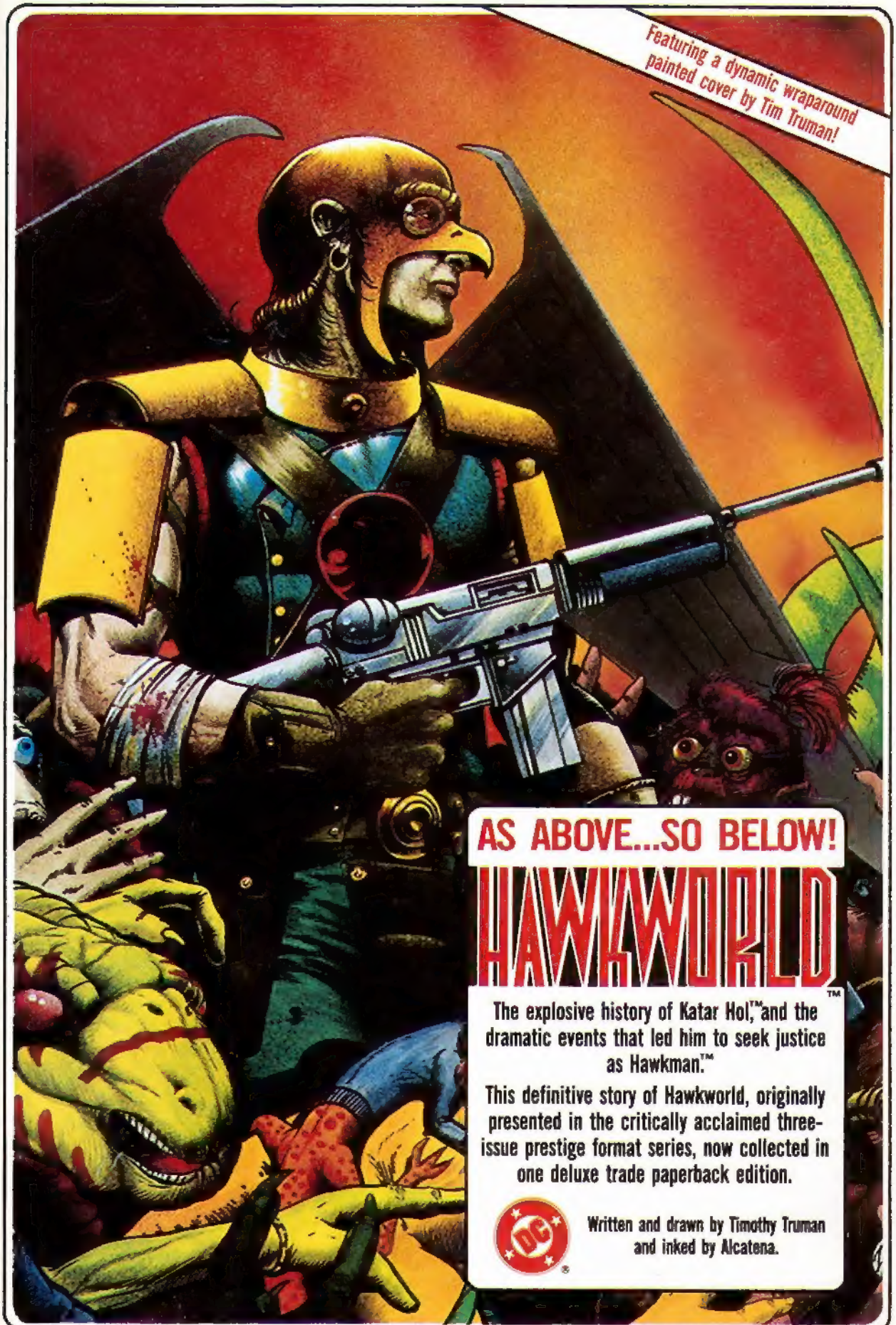
YOU MUST LEAVE HERE. YAT SOON'S GUNMEN WILL NOT KNOW YOU.
BOSS?
HE JUST TOOK OFF WITH HER, BOSS! MAYBE THERE'S TIME TO CATCH HIM! YOU COULD FOLLOW HIS WAKE-- OR SHOOT HIS MOTOR-- OR--
NO.
NO? BUT MARGO--
SHIWAN KHAN KNOWS TOO MUCH OF ME. I MUST LEARN MORE OF HIM.

HE IS TOO GUARDED NOW. I MUST TURN THE TABLES. I MUST CATCH HIM BY SURPRISE... IN HIS LAIR.

I MUST FOLLOW HIM TO CHINA.

BUT-- DAMN IT ALL--MARGO IS--
AGENT LANE HAS DONE HER DUTY... AGENT VINCENT. ARE YOU WILLING TO DO YOURS?

IF MY DUTY IS SAVING MARGO, THEN... HELL YEAH! I'LL DO IT IF IT KILLS ME!
BUT IF MY DUTY IS STANDING AROUND WHILE SHE'S KIDNAPPED BY SOME--
YOU ARE A LOYAL FRIEND, HARRY VINCENT. YOU ARE A BRAVE DEFENDER OF THOSE YOU BELIEVE TO BE WEAKER THAN YOU.
THESE ARE FINE TRAITS TO HAVE...
...IN OTHER WALKS OF LIFE.
YOU NEED NO LONGER TROUBLE YOURSELF ABOUT YOUR DUTY, HARRY VINCENT. YOU NO LONGER HAVE ONE.
BUT...
WE WILL SETTLE MATTERS WHEN I RETURN FROM CHINA. UNTIL THEN... YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN.
NOW COME, AGENT SHREVNITZ... AND AGENT BURBANK...
...WE HAVE PLANS TO MAKE.
NEXT: THE TRUTH ABOUT MARGO LANE!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